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## Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 22, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable LAUCH FAIRCLOTH, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Earnest Gibson, First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Ernest R. Gibson, pastor of First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

*Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*—Matthew 5:9.

O gracious God, Thou who hast created all things and created Thine human creatures in Thine own image, we adore Thee and praise Thee. We magnify Thy name. There is none like Thee in all the Earth.

Thou hast given this country representative government and led us into peaceful paths. Thou hast given us men and women, through the electoral process, whom the people of this Nation have chosen to speak for them.

Lord, we ask Thee to be with Your elected servants as they consider what is best for Your people and nation. Help them to be sensitive to the needs of those whom You called Your "little ones." Lord, may every legislative decision be one in which we can rejoice, thank the Senate, and give Your Name the honor and glory.

In the name of Him who said to Moses, and to others, "I will be with thee." Amen.

### APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, February 23, 1995.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LAUCH FAIRCLOTH, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] is recognized to speak for up to 20 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wish you a good morning.

### THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POSED BY U.S. GROWING DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN ENERGY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise to discuss President Clinton's "do

nothing—and I repeat "do nothing"—response to the threat to our national security from the rising tide of oil imports.

Mr. President, the threat posed by our growing dependence on foreign energy is once again in the spotlight because of last Thursday's release of the Commerce Department's report to the President titled "The Effect of Imports of Crude Oil and Refined Petroleum Products on the National Security." The report found that:

\*\*\* the reduction in exploration, dwindling reserves, falling production, relatively high cost of U.S. production, and the resulting low rates of return on investments all point toward a contraction of the U.S. petroleum industry and increasing imports from OPEC sources. Growing import dependence, in turn, increases U.S. vulnerability to a supply disruption because non-OPEC sources lack surge production capacity; and there are at present no substitutes for oil-based transportation fuels which account for two-thirds of U.S. petroleum consumption.

Based on these findings, the Secretary of Commerce formally advised the President that:

The Department found that petroleum imports threaten to impair the national security. I recommend that you confirm this finding.

Mr. President, it is reasonable to expect the President of the United States to take bold action—bold action—if the national security is at risk. President Clinton agreed that it is at risk, but he simply refuses to take action or propose anything. In his statement, President Clinton said:

I am today concurring with the Department of Commerce's finding that the nation's growing reliance on imports of crude oil and refined petroleum products threaten the nation's security because they increase U.S. vulnerability to oil supply interruptions.

So far, so good. But President Clinton went on to say:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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